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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**PSC WORKSHOP TO HELP COMMISSION IDENTIFY  
BROADBAND ACCESS TO RURAL NEBRASKANS**

LINCOLN -- A workshop next week will kick off an effort by the Nebraska Public Service Commission to identify broadband access for the state's 384,382 residents living in rural areas outside incorporated places.

The Commission will conduct a public workshop with an eye to collecting rural detailed information about broadband availability that is comparable to information currently available for incorporated places in Nebraska. The workshop is scheduled for Tuesday, August 22, 2006, at 2:30 p.m., in the Commission Hearing Room 1200 N Street, suite 300 the Atrium, Lincoln. The Commission is inviting all broadband service providers, regardless of type of technology utilized to offer broadband service, to the workshop.

Commissioner Jerry Vap of McCook, chairman of the Commission's investigation of broadband services, said a recently completed broadband report did not adequately address availability to rural residents. A fundamental component of the workshop will be how to collect information from satellite, wireless, cable modem, and telecommunications carriers and summarize the data into a single report that accurately reflects the extent of broadband deployment throughout Nebraska.

In the recently completed broadband report, the Commission noted that only telephone carriers it regulates were required to submit reports. Some other broadband providers, however, did provide data. Not all information was submitted in the appropriate format..

"We're looking for a consensus on how to develop a methodology of data collection," Vap said. "We need to find a common format."

Commissioner Frank Landis of Lincoln, member of the Governor's Broadband Task Force, said, "We know there are pockets in Nebraska where customers don't get adequate broadband service. Our goal is to shine a light on those pockets so we all know exactly what's out there."

For purposes of the study, the Nebraska Public Service Commission utilizes the Federal Communications Commission definition of facilities that will support advanced services providing speeds greater than 200 kilobytes per second (KBPS), both upstream and downstream.